

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has decided to take the charge of the export of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a delegation lead by Chief General Manager (Marketing) had gone to Bangladesh recently in this connection;

(d) if so, the name of the other members of the delegation; and

(e) the amount spent on the visit thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Export of coal/coke has been decanalised, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is free to export coal based on commercial considerations.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. CIL has informed that a delegation led by Shri S.K. Sen, Chief General Manager (Marketing) CIL alongwith two members each from coal companies and MMTC, visited Bangladesh to explore the possibility of export of coal. Names of the other members of the said delegation are as under:-

COAL INDIA LTD.

1. Shri V.K. Singh, Chief General Management (Sales & Marketing), Eastern Coalfields Ltd, Calcutta.
2. Shri S.V. Rao, General Manager (Finance), Coal India Ltd., Calcutta.

MINERALS & METALS TRADING CORPORATION

1. Shri B. N. Ghosh, Dy. General Manager, (F & A), MMTC, Calcutta.
2. Shri V. D. Seth, Sr. Manager, MMTC, New Delhi.

(e) According to information furnished by CIL, the amount spent on the visit by the coal companies was about Rs. 1.48 lakhs.

Meeting of Civil Supplies Ministers on Price Rise

6595. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government held a meeting of the Ministers of Civil Supplies of the States to discuss the problem of continuous rising prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet this situation; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). Issues relating to the price situation and the working of the Public Distribution System were discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers held on October, 1991 which was also attended by the Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies of the States. The State Governments/UT Administrations were requested by the Finance Minister to contain Budgetary deficits by cutting down Government expenditure on the non-plan side, Measures contemplated by the Central Government were also outlined by the Finance Minister in this meeting. The Revamped Public Distribution System was also discussed in this meeting and the State Governments were asked by the Prime Minister to involve local people in the supervision of the Public Distribution System. State Governments agreed to step up action against hoarders and blackmarketeers under the Essential Commodities Act and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Essential Supplies Act.

Increased allocation of Public Distribution System commodities, market intervention operations and imports of essential commodities such as edible oil are resorted to, as measures to combat rise in prices, subject to a number of factors such as availability of stock in the Central Pool, foreign-exchange position and international prices of these commodities.

[English]

Housing Scarcity in Vijayawada

6596. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute scarcity of housing units in Vijayawada City;

(b) whether HUDCO has any plan for construction of LIG, MIG and HIG dwelling units there in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Housing is a State subject and State and Union Territory Governments are free to formulate housing schemes in urban areas for various target groups in accordance with the need, their priority and financial resources and through State Plan provisions. Union Government is not aware of reports of acute scarcity of housing units in Vijayawada City.

(b) and (c). HUDCO is not constituted to construct houses, but provides financial assistance to various Housing Board/Local Bodies etc. for the construction of houses as per HUDCO guidelines HUDCO since inception and as on 31.1.92 has sanctioned 15 projects in Vijayawada City in the State of Andhra Pradesh for different schemes. The project cost of these schemes is Rs. 19.30

crores, Out of which HUDCO loan component is Rs. 12.37 crores. These project envisage construction of 10922 residential units and 19643 basic sanitation units.

[Translation]

Dealership of Maruti Cars

6597. SHRI RAM NIHORE RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons allotted sale dealership and service centres of Maruti Cars by the Maruti Udyog Limited upto December, 1991;

(b) whether persons of the same family have been allotted more than one agency/dealership in different names;

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor and

(d) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to whom dealership and service centres have been allotted out of the total allotment made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNBON): (a) Maruti Udyog Ltd. had 56 dealer companies and 1359 Maruti Authorised Service Stations (MASSs) as on 31.12.1991. Out of these 1359 MASSs, 636 are in operation.

(b) and (c): Assuming that 'family' means immediate family i.e. father, mother, sons and daughters, no two persons of the same family had been allocated more than one dealership in different names, as reported by the Company.

(d) The proprietor of one dealership Company belongs to Scheduled Tribe. This information regarding MASSs is not maintained by the Company.